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August 10, 1951

MEMORANDUM

To: The Secretary

Via: S/S

As supplemental to my oral report to you this morning on the Watch Committee's evaluation of the intelligence indications of the outbreak of World War III coincident with the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty, I quote the summary of the latest weekly indications review by the British Joint Intelligence Committee:

"1. Committee impressed by coincidence number of indications, some of which of doubtful authenticity, but which could all be interpreted as preliminaries to military action. These include: Influx Soviet troops into Germany which counterbalanced by loss in efficiency through departure smaller number highly trained members '27 class. Movement Soviet troops Austria from training areas to barracks which might be preliminary to re-equipment. Noted, however, to date this has not occurred Soviet zone Germany. Arrival Marshal Konev Germany. Reported but regarded by air Ministry as unconfirmed increased tempo air activity Russia. Reports from China that Commies desire avoid resumption hostilities Korea until September with some indications that to key date. Increased Chinese capability for submarine warfare.

"2. Committee concluded that it adhered to its previous estimate that Soviets do not intend resort to formal war this year. Decided, however, that situation requires close watching and that tempo of Soviet military preparations cold war and propaganda 'peace offensive' are all accelerating."

(sgd) W. PARK ARMSTRONG, JR.

W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

cc: G - Mr. Matthews
S/P - Mr. Nitze
FE - Mr. Rusk
NEA - Mr. Perkins
GTA - Mr. Byroade
WEA - Mr. McGhee

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